

# Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness:

Parkland Health & Hospital System's Approach

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### Who Are We?

- 1,000-bed county hospital primary teaching facility for University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
- 7 Community-based health clinics, additional school-based and mobile clinics
- Level I Trauma Center serving North Central Texas

## Parkland Health & Hospital System

- 39,253 Inpatient Admissions
- 14,416 Births
- 444,134 Outpatient Visits
- 358,637 Community Clinic Visits
- 136,084 Emergency Department Visits
  - (avg 373 per day)
- 4,614 Trauma Admissions

**DOD Training** 

**Recognition of Need** 

**Gain Administrative Support** 

**Develop WMD Procedures** 

Drill

Revisions

**Critique & Evaluation** 

## **DOD Training**

- **1998**
- Federal resources restricted to first responders
- No funding for hospital preparedness
- No allowance for sustainment
- Focus on chemical event

Recognition of Need

North Central Texas is a significant target.

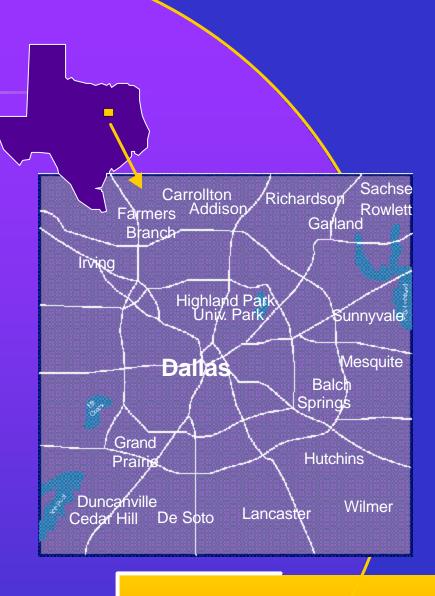
- 5.1 million people
- Extensive highway system
- Major transportation hub (air, rail and motor freight), world's 2nd busiest airport
- Comanche Peak NuclearPlant in adjoining SomervellCounty



Fort Worth—Dallas

## Dallas County

- 880 square miles
- 2 million people
- City of Dallas,22 suburban cities,some rural areas
- State & federal offices
- Large-venue attractions



## Recognition of Need

- Recognized Parkland's obligation as a responder
  - Large county hospital
  - Level 1 Trauma Center
  - BioTel, unified EMS medical command center
  - Community clinics

## **Gain Administrative Support**

#### Absolute necessity!

- Acknowledge need
- Approve program
- Provide funding

## **Develop WMD Procedures**

- Modified existing Disaster Plan procedures
  - Retained Central Command Post and Operations Centers
  - Overall responses

## **Develop WMD Procedures**

- Department-specific responses
  - Emergency Services
  - Infection Control
  - Security/Public Safety
  - Public Relations
  - Pharmacy

### Department-specific Responses:

## **Emergency Services**

- Event identification
- Notify administration / implement disaster plan
- Perform triage
- Determine need for decontamination or isolation
- Perform initial stabilization and treatment

## Department-specific Responses: Infection Control

- Assist in agent identification
- Define and operationalize isolation needs
- Facilitate laboratory surveillance and testing
- Interface with Dallas County Health Department

## Department-specific Responses: Security/Public Safety

- Secure perimeter
- Limit facility access
- Maintain internal order
- Conduct periodic security sweeps
- Interface with local police and FBI

## Department-specific Responses: Public Relations/Media

- Develop communications network
- Designate spokesperson and media area
- Provide timely, simple, accurate sound bites
- Provide public service announcements

## Department-specific Responses: Pharmacy

- Medication needs
  - Review of current treatments
  - Estimate exposure impact
- Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
- Bioterrorism preparedness planning
- External agreements
  - Drug wholesalers and companies
- Medication inventories
  - Purchasing plan, funding, inventory maintenance and control

## Department-specific Responses: Pharmacy

#### **Pharmaceuticals**

#### **Biological Agents**

- Anthrax
- Plague
- Tularemia
- Cholera
- Q Fever

#### **Chemical Agents**

- Nerve agents
- Vesicants
  - Lewisite
  - Mustard
- Cyanide

**Develop WMD Procedures** 

**Training** 

Mutual Agreements

Decontaminaton Unit

- •ICU RNs & MDs
- Technical Support Staff
- Ancillary Staff
- Decontamination Team

**Community** 

**Develop WMD Procedures** 

**Training** 

Mutual Agreements

Decontaminaton Unit

- Hospitals
- Agencies

**Develop WMD Procedures** 

**Training** 

Mutual Agreements

Decontaminaton Unit

- Location
- Design
- Construction
- PPEs
- Supplies & Equipment

# Decontamination Unit Located adjacent to the Emergency Department to avoid contamination

**Triage** 

**Decontamination Unit** 

Cost \$26,000 (major portion for drainage grate)

**Triage** 

**Decontamination Unit** 

"Walls" made of cubicle curtains (enclose perimeter and separate interior areas)



**Triage** 

**Decontamination Unit** 

**Triage** 

Divided into male and female areas; exits near ED entrance

	FEMALE	<del></del>
Gross	Final	Final
Decon	Rinse	Triage
	MALE	
		_

Hospital Personnel Control Zone

**Decontamination Unit** 



- PPEs
- Supplies
- Equipment



**Drill to Test Procedures** 







## **Critique & Evaluation**

- All departments represented
- Basic procedures went well
- Revisions devised

Revision

- Augment security manpower
- Improve handling of valuables
- Devise disrobing area
- Utilize patient assisted decon
- Augment decon manpower

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